

## Minutes of Aug 27, 2008 Youth Council meeting

Attending: Toni Ansel, Matt Watkins, Ron Tollefson, Tracy Parrish, Lanae Alexander, Dan Wheeler, Shelly Ivie, Connie Perry, Margo Weeks, Keith Neilsen, Kathy Deets, Beth Murphy, Donica Bigelow, Ray Richardson, Bob Gilbert

Guests: Whitney Hamilton, Casen Hamilton, Tiera Warren Mrs. Clara Huxford,

Jill Goodman asked to be excused.

Toni welcomed everyone. Introductions were made.

Minutes were reviewed. Keith motioned for approval, Dan seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Margo reported on the Youth Leadership Project. Volunteers completed a service project for the new rec center in Vernal. It involved youth from both counties. The project was to purchase some new basketball carts, assemble them, and then to label the balls. There were also some closets that got cleaned and organized. All that participated enjoyed a tour of the facility, and youth that helped were given five passes to visit the Rec Center. Margo said it was a very successful project.

Tracy then introduced Tiera Warren as a successful youth. Tiera is not a current youth customer, as she is now in school, and has been doing so well with all her commitments. She has an amazing story. She is a shared customer between DWS and Voc Rehab, and has shown great courage in what she has done. Tiera is a recovering drug addict, and has been clean for a year. Got pregnant with her daughter, and was still using until she was 7 months along. She finally checked into rehab. She had been on meth for two years – pushed everyone closer to her away. Tiera said she was kind of a hellion when younger. Was raised with Grandma Huxford, but even then, was a little rebellious. Chased the older boys, now she tells the younger girls to not do that. Ran away when she was 15 with a dumb boy. Called about a month later, and got a bus ticket to come back. She has been doing well with school and her other activities. Wants to pursue training in business administration.

Kathy Deets then introduced Whitney Hamilton. She recently got married, lives in Duchesne, and brought Casen, her one year old, with her. She came in to DWS in August of 07, and was ready to give birth. Whitney said she is a recovering drug addict, and has been clean for a year. She started using when she was 13. Was rebellious. Moved out of home when she was 17 and started on meth. Got caught when she was barely pregnant, and went to treatment. When she left the treatment program, she got involved with old friends and relapsed with drugs. Did some jail time. She completed a program similar to drug court, graduated, and has been clean for a year. Kathy said that Whitney has a heavy schedule: she has to meet with her tracker, a counselor, 8<sup>th</sup> District Court probation officer – weekly. She has kept up her good attendance record, and she worked at Deseret Industries for 15 hrs per week. It was important to keep her busy. Enrolled in Prime Cut academy, but had to leave. She enrolled in the Dental Assisting program. Whitney said that replaying her experiences helps as it keeps her aware of where she has been, and then recommit to not wanting to go back.

Tracy then provided an update of the Roosevelt Youth program:

In School	Out of	Foster Care &	Follow-up	Total Youth	WBL
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Youth	School Youth	Transition			
0	4	1	9	13	162

Kathy gave the report for the Vernal Office

In School Youth	Out of School Youth	Foster Care & Transition	Follow-up	Total Youth	WBL
4	12	4	17	29	

Both offices said they are eager to get referrals and partner on youth that need services.

Peggy Killian said that the new budgets for youth training are significantly less than we are used to having. Is due to few federal dollars and Utah's strong economy. Both offices have some funding now to service youth.

Bob then reviewed the Governor's 21<sup>st</sup> Century Workforce Initiative. The Initiative is designed to address issues and recommend solutions to keep or bring Utah up to global competitiveness standards. We need more math and science students and qualified teachers. Also need to work on the college graduation rate of Utah college students. The steering committee for the Initiative is composed of CEOs and Presidents of Utah's biggest organizations, both public and private. The timeline is for the task forces to complete their initial work and post recommendations on a website by early October. The public would then be invited to review and comment.

Donica said the Blue Ribbon Task Force on Assessments is an important task force. Trying to get testing that provides faster results to teachers. May do away with some tests that are redundant. Also looking at better ways to do testing/assessments.

Updates:

Bob said Duchesne County School District was nominated by the Roosevelt DWS Office for the Employer of the Year Award, and won! Will be recognized at the State Council meeting in October.

Ray Richardson said there is a push for a peer court. Ray said they are opposed to it. Concerned about peers evaluating peers in a rural setting. A small problem can turn into a large problem. Has some positive elements, but the courts will not be supporting it. Needs a sponsor of some sort in order to happen. Following through on sanctions of peer court can also be a problem. Peer courts work predominantly with first-time offenders, who are often low-risk offenders and can be handled without a lot of work. Ray said that 65% of youth now being treated with current programs are successful in meeting objectives.

Ashley Valley has started the new year. Has met the enrollment cap after three days of 90 students.

Connie said they are anxious to work with partners to get youth served.

Lanae said they appreciate the referrals and partnerships. Dan said they have room for referrals, ample funding, and welcome opportunity to help.

Keith said that school started. Already have kids sluffing. Said that Leslie Morris was honored as Instructor of the Year. There is increased interest in Nursing Assistant program. The Roosevelt building is undergoing remodeling now.

Matt said that DCFS is fully staffed for the first time in three years. Have prevention workers in every office, trying to keep customers from needing requiring services. We don't like sending youth away out of area. Lose contact with them. We are doing 4 10 hour days, but we still have coverage on Friday.

Beth said YIC had their official visit from SLC this summer. Went well. Have a lull in July and August. The economy has helped with youth being able to get good jobs.

Toni thanked all for attending. Next meeting is set for September 24<sup>th</sup> in Vernal.